the State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

**Supply of Gold to Exporters of Gold Jewellery**

5335. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has stopped the supply of gold to exporters of gold Jewellery; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government to resume the supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). There was temporary suspension of supply of gold by India Government Mint, Bombay to the State Bank of India for about 4 weeks during July-August, 1991 for some administrative reasons. Supply of gold has since been resumed with effect from 19th August, 1991.

**Export of Steel Products**

5336. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of steel products increased during April-June, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which export and production of steel increased in comparison to the last two years; and

(d) the target fixed for the remaining months of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Authentic data on steel exports has not yet been published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. Available data on exports of steel by main producers (i.e. SAIL and TISCO) during the period April-June, 1991 compared to the corresponding periods over the last two years is as follows:

Exports by Main Producers (SAIL & TISCO) (April-June)

| Financial year (April-June) | Quantity (in tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 1989-90 | 22,670 |
| 1990-91 | 59,400 |
| 1991-92 | 85,250 |

(c) Exports by SAIL and TISCO during April-June, 1991 increased by 43.5% and 276% over the corresponding periods of 1990-91 and 1989-90 respectively. Total production of finished steel in April-June, 1991 increased by about 11.5% and 13.9% over the corresponding periods of 1990-91 and 1989-90 respectively.

(d) The Working Group on Iron & Steel for the 8th Plan had projected a possible